

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) An arthroplasty implant for providing a joint between a first body member and a second body member, the arthroplasty implant comprising:

a first component defining a concave surface and having a first connector connecting the first component to the first body member;

a second component defining a convex surface and having a second connector connecting the second component to the second body member; and

an intermediate component positioned between the first component and the second component and defining a convex surface slidable on the concave surface of the first component to allow articulation and lateral translation to take place in mutually orthogonal directions between the first component and the intermediate component and a concave surface slidable on the convex surface of the second component to allow articulation and lateral translation to take place in mutually orthogonal directions between the second component and the intermediate component; and

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the intermediate component including one of a projection or a recess and one of the first component or the second component including an other of the projection or the recess, wherein the projection is at least partially disposed within the recess to limit the articulation and translation which can take place between the intermediate component and the one of the first component or the second component and to prevent the intermediate component from separating laterally from the one of the first component or the second component.

16. (Previously Presented) The arthroplasty implant according to claim 15 wherein the concave surface of the first component and the convex surface of the intermediate component are complementally, spherically curved.

17. (Previously Presented) The arthroplasty implant according to claim 15 wherein each of the convex surface of the second component and the concave surface of the intermediate component is defined by radii of curvature which differ in mutually orthogonal directions.

18. (Currently Amended) The arthroplasty implant according to claim ~~[[15]]~~ 17 wherein a length of the convex surface of the second component

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in a direction defined by a relatively large radius of curvature is greater than a length of the convex surface in a direction defined by a relatively small radius of curvature.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The arthroplasty implant according to claim 15 wherein each of the first component and the second component is made of grade 5 titanium and each of the concave surface and the convex surface has a titanium nitride finish.

21. (Previously Presented) The arthroplasty implant according to claim 15 wherein the intermediate component is made of a low friction plastic material.

22. (Previously Presented) The arthroplasty implant according to claim 21 wherein the plastic material is ultra high molecular weight polyethylene.

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23. (Previously Presented) The arthroplasty implant according to claim 15 wherein the first connector and the second connector each includes a projecting post locatable in a hole formed in a respective body member.

24. (Currently Amended) The arthroplasty implant according to claim 15 ~~further comprising wherein the projection comprises~~ a central projection on the concave surface of the first component and ~~the recess comprises~~ a central opening in the convex surface of the intermediate component, the central projection positionable within the central opening to prevent lateral separation of the intermediate component and the first component while allowing limited articulation and lateral translation to take place between the intermediate component and the first component.

25. (Previously Presented) The arthroplasty implant according to claim 24 wherein the concave surface of the first component is bounded by a first peripheral edge and the convex surface of the intermediate component is bounded by a second peripheral edge, the first peripheral edge contacting the second peripheral edge when relative movement between the first component and the intermediate component reaches a maximum limit.

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26. (Currently Amended) The arthroplasty implant according to claim 15 wherein ~~one of the first component and the intermediate component includes~~ the projection comprises a laterally outwardly facing projection and ~~the other of the first component and the intermediate component includes~~ the recess comprises a laterally inwardly facing recess, the projection interacting with the recess to prevent lateral separation of the intermediate component and the first component while allowing limited articulation and lateral translation to take place between the intermediate component and the first component.

27. (Currently Amended) The arthroplasty implant according to claim ~~[[15]]~~ 26 wherein the first component includes an annular wall bounding the concave surface of the first component, the annular wall being formed with an annular undercut defining ~~[[a]]~~ the laterally inwardly facing recess, and the intermediate component includes an annular rib defining ~~[[a]]~~ the laterally outwardly facing projection, ~~interaction between the annular rib and the annular undercut preventing lateral separation of the intermediate component and the first component.~~

28. (Previously Presented) The arthroplasty implant according to claim 15 wherein the first component is a phalangeal component of a

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metatarsophalangeal joint implant and is connectable to a phalanx, and the second component is a tarsal component of the metatarsophalangeal joint implant and is connectable to a tarsus.

Claims 29-34 (Canceled)

35. (New) The arthroplasty implant according to claim 15, wherein only one of the convex surface or the concave surface of the intermediate component includes the one of the projection or the recess and only a corresponding one of the first component or the second component includes the other of the projection and the recess.

36. (New) An arthroplasty implant for providing a joint between a first body member and a second body member, the arthroplasty implant comprising:

a first component defining a concave surface and having a first connector connecting the first component to the first body member;

a second component defining a convex surface and having a second connector connecting the second component to the second body member;

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an intermediate component positioned between the first component and the second component and defining a convex surface slidable on the concave surface of the first component to allow articulation and lateral translation to take place in mutually orthogonal directions between the first component and the intermediate component and a concave surface slidable on the convex surface of the second component to allow articulation and lateral translation to take place in mutually orthogonal directions between the second component and the intermediate component; and

interengaging formations on the intermediate component and one of the first component or the second component to limit the articulation and translation which can take place between the intermediate component and that one of the first component or the second component and prevent the intermediate component from separating laterally from that one of the first component or the second component.